

CRISIS AVERTED: HOUSE CUTS END SHUTDOWN THREAT 3

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Wednesday



JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

FIGHTING FOR CONTROL

Violent skirmishes

push Libya closer to a drawn-out civil war **6**

A FAIR PRICE?

Cherry Blossom

officials will charge \$5 for street festival **11**



AN UNLIKELY PATH

A nature expert

on how she found her way into the wild **22**



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MARCH 2, 2011 | A PUBLICATION OF **The Washington Post** | NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS, LIFESTYLES | **FREE DAILY**



NEWT VS NEWT

As he inches closer to a run at the
White House, Newt Gingrich doesn't
need to make a name for himself. But
will that help or hurt his chances? **9**

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SAUL LOEB/AF/GETTY IMAGES



eye openers

'This Awesome Signage Really Spruced Things Up!'

The health board of Webster, Mass., on Monday approved a plan to shame owners of rundown buildings into fixing their properties. The plan allows the town to place 4-by-8-foot signs on the sides of the buildings listing the owner's name, address and telephone number. The board says it costs up to \$9,000 per year to deal with squatters, vandals and other problems. (AP)

"We have never had anything like this where mice have been used as an instrument of crime. This is food terrorism by mice."

— MICHAEL CHITWOOD, POLICE SUPERINTENDENT OF UPPER DARBY, PA., REGARDING A PIZZERIA OWNER WHO ALLEGEDLY PLANTED MICE IN TWO COMPETING SHOPS.

Bank Violates Universal Law of No-Take-Backsies

A computer glitch caused dozens of ATMs in Sydney, Australia, to dispense cash indiscriminately Tuesday, leading to a mass frenzy, the Daily Telegraph reported. The ATMs were allowing customers to withdraw amounts up to their daily limit, regardless of how much money was actually in their account. "No one has received free cash," a bank spokesman said. "What they've done is overdrawn their accounts. (EXPRESS)

The Big Picture

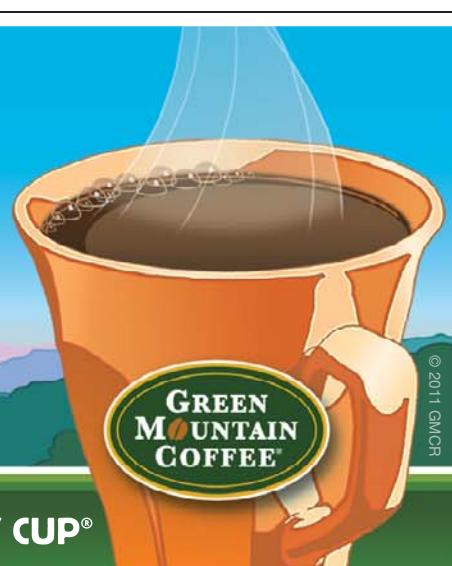


IT'S NATIONAL UNDERWEAR DAY! In Brazil! Here are attractive people parading around a bus station in their underwear in Brasilia, which is the capital of Brazil! On Tuesday! (AP)

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In Brief

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Tenn. Mulls Bill to Make Following Shariah Illegal

Tennessee is considering making it a felony to follow some versions of the Islamic code known as Shariah, the most severe measure yet put forth by a national movement whose members believe extremist Muslims want Shariah to supersede the Constitution. (AP)

MADISON, WIS.

Governor Proposes Deep Cuts for Schools

After focusing for weeks on his proposal to strip public employees of collective bargaining rights, Gov. Scott Walker on Tuesday presented his full budget proposal — a plan that cuts \$1.5 billion in aid to public schools and government but avoids any tax or fee increases, furloughs or widespread layoffs. Walker said the cuts could be paid for in large part by forcing government employees to pay more for their pension and health care benefits. (AP)

2,082

The number of methamphetamine lab busts and seizures that took place in Tennessee in 2003, say figures released Tuesday, topping Missouri's total of 1,960. (AP)

Government Shutdown Averted

House passes quick bill to avoid closure; cuts spending by \$4B

Washington

The House passed emergency short-term legislation Tuesday to cut federal spending by \$4 billion and avert a government shutdown. Senate Democrats agreed to follow suit, handing Republicans an early victory in their drive to rein in government.

The bill that cleared the House on a bipartisan vote of 335-91 eliminates the threat of a shutdown on March 4, when existing funding authority expires. At the same time, it creates a compressed two-week timeframe for the White House and lawmakers to engage in what looms as a highly contentious negotiation on a follow-up bill to set spending levels through the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid said the short-term bill would win approval and be ready for President Obama's signature within 48 hours. "We'll pass this



EVAN VUCCI/AP

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio pauses during a news conference on Tuesday on the same day the House passed legislation to cut federal spending by \$4 billion.

and then look at funding the government on a long-term basis," the Nevada Democrat said.

There was no immediate reaction from the White House, which earlier in the day called publicly for an interim measure of up to five weeks. House Republicans were more eager to draw attention to the bill that was passing with the acquiescence of the White House and Democrats than to the chal-

lenge yet ahead.

"Now that congressional Democrats and the administration have expressed an openness for spending cuts, the momentum is there for a long-term measure that starts to finally get our fiscal house in order," said Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia.

On the House floor, Democrats sharply attacked Republicans in the run-up to the vote, but

Meanwhile ...

Congress has agreed to continue funding the federal government through March 18, and that means Washington's local government will stay open at least through that date. But D.C. leaders are warning that local government is still threatened by a potential shutdown. Mayor Vincent Gray said Wednesday that city officials are working to determine what functions of D.C. government would legally be allowed to continue in the event of a shutdown. (AP)

much of their criticism was aimed at an earlier \$61 billion package of spending cuts that had cleared on a party-line vote.

"The sooner we can agree on a long-term package of smart cuts — not reckless, arbitrary, job-destroying cuts — the sooner we can stop funding the government in disruptive two-week increments that undermine efficiency and spread economic uncertainty," said Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, second-ranking in the Democratic leadership. ANDREW TAYLOR (AP)



Take That, Watson!: It turns out all it took to top Watson, the "Jeopardy!"-winning computer, was real-life rocket scientist Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey. The Democratic congressman topped the IBM computer Monday night in a "Jeopardy!" exhibition match held in a Washington hotel. Holt played the first round along with Rep. Bill Cassidy, a Louisiana Republican. At the end of the round, Holt had earned \$8,600 to Watson's \$6,200. (AP)

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Nation

Army Updates Training

Officials swap sit-ups for combat run in new exercise regimen

Fort Jackson, S.C.

The Army plans to toughen its fitness tests for the first time in 30 years to make sure all soldiers have the strength, endurance and mobility for battle, adding exercises such as running an obstacle course in full combat gear and dragging a body's weight.

Officials at Fort Jackson, a major Army training center, said Tuesday the new regimen would replace twice-a-year testing that focused on push-ups, sit-ups and a two-mile run. Trials are starting this month at eight bases, and the plan could be adopted Army-wide after reviews later this year.

The shift follows other Army efforts to overhaul training, improve diets and help older soldiers keep fit.

Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, the head of Army training, said the fitness test had to be revamped because repetitive exercises such as sit-ups don't translate into survival on the battlefield.

Unveiling the pilot to reporters, he said the service was also adopt-



U.S. Army Sgt. Cornelius Trammell clears a hurdle Tuesday as he demonstrates a part of the Army's new "combat readiness" test at Fort Jackson in South Carolina.

"Soldiers like to be challenged. This will definitely challenge them."

— LT. GEN. MARK HERTLING, THE HEAD OF ARMY TRAINING, REFERRING TO THE NEW FITNESS REGIMEN THAT WOULD REPLACE THE TWICE-A-YEAR TESTING.

ing lessons from Iraq and Afghanistan combat veterans who had to learn in the field to carry anywhere from 40 to 70 pounds of weapons and body armor.

The pilot program comprises two new tests in place of the current exam. And the new "physical readiness" test includes such things as a 60-yard shuttle run and a standing long jump to one minute of push-ups and a 1.5-mile timed run.

A "combat readiness" test includes running 400 meters with a rifle; moving through an obstacle course in full combat gear; and crawling and vaulting over obstacles while aiming a rifle. The pilot will begin this month.

The program could be implemented Army-wide during the fiscal year that starts in October, said Frank Palkoska, head of the Army's Fitness School at Fort Jackson. SUSANNE M. SCHAFER (AP)

Panel Told No Guarantee Against Unethical Testing

Atlanta

Experts say that the kind of unethical medical studies that occurred half a century ago could still happen again despite more than 1,000 rules and regulations that should prevent such abuses.

Bioethicists and researchers spoke Tuesday before a presidential panel in Washington. The meeting was triggered by the government's apology last fall for federal doctors infecting prisoners and mental patients in Guatemala with syphilis 65 years ago.

President Obama ordered his

Looking Ahead

The Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues' two tasks:

- Examine federally funded international studies to make sure research is being done ethically.
- Take a more intensive look at the Guatemala study, in which federal doctors infected prisoners and mental patients with syphilis.

Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues to explore whether such a study could happen again.

Speakers noted that over the last

several decades, as many as 1,000 rules, regulations and guidelines have been enacted worldwide to ensure the ethical conduct of medical research. In the U.S., there are rules to protect people in every study done by federal scientists.

But that oversight is inconsistent. What's more, if federal funding or review is not involved, an unethical study could be done and no one in authority would ever know about it.

"We have a leaky system," said Eric Meslin, director of the Indiana University Center for Bioethics. MIKE STOBBE (AP)

Nation

Ex-Goldman Exec Charged in Probe

Prosecutors: Director played part in large insider-trading ring



Backstory

Rajat Gupta's list of achievements is long. A guest of the White House at President Obama's first state dinner held for the visiting prime minister of India, Gupta is one of the most high-profile emigrants from India. He came to the Harvard Business School in 1971 and joined the blue-chip consulting firm McKinsey right after graduation. (AP)

Raj Rajaratnam, founder of the Galleon Group hedge fund, that Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway planned to invest \$5 billion in Goldman before it was publicly announced at the height of the financial crisis.

Gupta also is charged with giving Rajaratnam confidential earnings information from Goldman and Procter & Gamble. Gupta served on Goldman's board from 2006 until last May. He was a P&G board member from 2007 until resigning Tuesday, after the charges were announced.

Gupta was an investor in some of the Galleon hedge funds when he passed the information along, and he had other business interests with Rajaratnam, the SEC said. Rajaratnam, a one-time billionaire who is free on \$100 million bail, has pleaded not guilty to criminal securities fraud charges. He has maintained that he traded only on information that was already public. He is scheduled to go on trial next week in a probe that has resulted in criminal charges against more than 25 people. (AP)

Everybody's Welcome

New Jersey's largest university will offer a gender-neutral housing program in three dorms that aims to make the campus more inclusive for gay students. Starting this fall, gay, lesbian and transgender students at Rutgers University's New Brunswick campus can choose either male or female roommates. Heterosexual students will also be permitted to live in rooms with students of the opposite sex. (AP)



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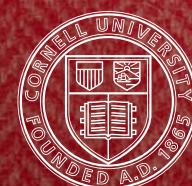


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World

Libya Escalates Toward Civil War

Skirmishes, global retaliation intensify as Gadhafi digs in

Tripoli, Libya

Moammar Gadhafi's forces battled poorly armed rebels Tuesday for control of towns near the capital, trying to create a buffer zone around his seat of power. The increasingly violent clashes threatened to transform the 15-day popular rebellion in Libya into a drawn-out civil war.

Amid the intensified fighting, the international community stepped up moves to isolate the longtime Libyan leader.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said he ordered two ships into the Mediterranean, including the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge, and he is sending 400 Marines to the vessel.

Gadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam, warned Western forces not to take military action against Libya and said the country is prepared to defend itself against foreign intervention.



Opposition volunteers in Ajdabiya, Libya, gather ammunition Tuesday for defense.

Meanwhile ...

Libya's deputy U.N. ambassador said Tuesday that Moammar Gadhafi is trying to replace him and Ambassador Mohamed Shalgham. But Ibrahim Dabbashi said that "certainly, it will not be accepted by the United Nations." Also Tuesday, Libya was suspended from the U.N. Human Rights Council. (AP)

"If they attack us, we are ready," he told Sky News.

Still, military leaders weighing a no-fly zone over Libya said it would be a complex task that would require taking out Gadhafi's air defenses, and Russia's top diplomat dismissed the idea as "superfluous" and said world powers should focus on sanctions.

Facing an unprecedented challenge to his 41-year rule, Gadhafi

140K

The number of Libyan refugees who have fled to neighboring Egypt and Tunisia since the country's uprising began Feb. 15, U.N. officials said Tuesday. (AP)

has launched the bloodiest crackdown in a wave of uprising against regimes in the Middle East. Gadhafi has lost control of the eastern half of the country but still holds Tripoli and other nearby cities.

An exact death toll is unclear, but U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has cited reports that perhaps 1,000 have died in Libya.

Gadhafi's regime has retaken at least two towns and threatened a third, while rebels repulsed attacks on three other key areas — Misrata to the east, Zawiya to the west, and the mountain town of Zintan to the south of the capital.

Gadhafi supporters also have said they were in control of the city of Sabratha, west of Tripoli, which has seemed to go back and forth between the two camps in the past week. (AP)



Demonstrators rally Tuesday in support of Oman's government in Muscat.

MUSCAT, OMAN

Oman Deploys Soldiers In Light of Protests

Oman deployed troops north of the capital, Muscat, and near the border with the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, after three-straight days of anti-government protests, officials said. Meanwhile, thousands participated in a pro-government rally on Tuesday afternoon in central Muscat, chanting slogans in support of the country's long-serving ruler, Sultan Qaboos bin Said. (AP)

TUNIS, TUNISIA

Islamist Party Legalized

A Tunisian Islamist party banned for more than 20 years was legalized Tuesday, while the country's top opposition figure, Nejib Chebbi, quit the unity government. The Ennahda party—branded an Islamic terrorist group by Tunisia's deposed leader but considered moderate by scholars—has rebounded since an uprising forced out President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January. (AP)

MOSCOW

Moscow Abandons Plan To Expel Stray Dogs

Moscow's thousands of stray dogs have something to wag their tails about—animal rights activists say the city has dropped a plan to round the dogs up and ship them to a camp far outside of town. Animal rights activists and Russian celebrities had been pressuring the city to abandon the plan. (AP)

Records

A TRANSMISSION TOWER

under construction in Tokyo has become the world's tallest free-standing broadcast structure at 1,971 feet tall, the owners said Tuesday. When complete, the Tokyo Sky Tree will stand 2,080 feet tall, officials said. Japan's six top broadcasters are building the tower, which will house shops, restaurants and other entertainment. (AP)



Pirate: If Rescue Is Attempted, Hostages Will Die

Copenhagen, Denmark

A Danish family of five captured by pirates in the Indian Ocean will suffer the same fate as four American yachters slain last week if any rescue is attempt is made, a Somali pirate said Tuesday.

The pirate said the Danish family's captors were discussing how big a ransom to demand.

The American deaths last week were a game-changer in the world of piracy, as virtually all the hostages have been released unharmed after Somali pirates negotiated

Backstory

Jan Quist Johansen; his wife, Birgit Marie Johansen; and their sons, Rune and Hjalte, and daughter, Naja, ages 12 to 16; were captured by pirates Thursday in the Indian Ocean. Two adult Danish crew members were also seized in the attack. The Johansens set out on their journey to sail around the world in 2009, planning to return to Denmark by August, and family members had blogged recently about a "piracy plan" while in the Indian Ocean. (AP)

multimillion-dollar ransoms.

The Danish government said it was doing "everything in our power" to help the hostages. Somali pirates have rarely captured families and children.

The family had been sending daily position and status updates by e-mail since Feb. 17 to the British Royal Navy's UK Maritime Trade Operations, which acts as a liaison for ships traveling through pirate-infested waters, said Wing Cmdr. Paddy O'Kennedy, a spokesman for the European Union's anti-piracy force. (AP)

\$2B

The amount set aside for Myanmar's defense, or about 23.5 percent of its new national budget, which was unveiled Tuesday. About \$22 million dollars was set aside for the ruling junta, which had widely been expected to be abolished under the newly elected civilian government, casting doubt that the regime will hand over power. (AP)

German Official Resigns Amid Thesis Scandal

Berlin

Germany's popular defense minister resigned Tuesday amid a deepening scandal over plagiarism allegations that threatened to become a liability for Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives in upcoming regional elections.

Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, 39, announced his decision days after Bayreuth University revoked his doctoral title for violating academic standards by failing to sufficiently credit sources in his thesis. Merkel said she accepted his resignation "with a heavy heart." (AP)

Dior Drops Designer for Remarks

Video footage shows Galliano praising Hitler at Paris cafe

Paris

Christian Dior said Tuesday it's firing designer John Galliano after an online video showed him praising Adolf Hitler — a bombshell certain to rock fashion's elite world as the latest Paris ready-to-wear shows begin.

Dior said Tuesday it has launched layoff proceedings for Galliano, just days after he was suspended as its creative director pending an investigation into an alleged anti-Semitic incident in a



British designer John Galliano was the creative director for Christian Dior.

Paris cafe last week.

On Monday, a video posted online showed Galliano, widely considered one of the world's top fashion talents, drunkenly telling

a cafe patron "I love Hitler" in a different incident.

Dior had come under international pressure after Oscar-winning actress Natalie Portman, a company spokesmodel, said in a statement she "will not be associated with Mr. Galliano in any way."

The fashion house is scheduled to present its fall-winter 2011-2012 ready-to-wear show on Friday. Galliano was also scheduled to present his own signature line on Sunday.

Marcellous Jones, editor-in-chief of Thefashioninsider.com magazine, said he was "really surprised that Dior actually had the conviction to fire John Galliano, because he makes them a lot of money." (AP)

Hearsay

"I am going to reveal a secret: There is an operations room in Tel Aviv with the aim of destabilizing the Arab world ... run by the White House."



— PRESIDENT ALI ABDULLAH SALEH, OF YEMEN, ON WEDNESDAY, ACCUSING THE U.S. AND ISRAEL OF THE UNREST SWEEPING THE ARAB WORLD.

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Sergio Pacheco is originally from South America. He's been involved in fitness from a very early age participating in sports such as soccer, football, and

basketball. He started learning martial arts at age 11, and stopped in order to concentrate on soccer. He started training in boxing and muay thai at age 19 and has also been a personal trainer for the past 3 years. He specializes in strength and conditioning, and also TRX and kettlebell training. Sergio enjoys helping individuals reach their fitness goals whether its with weight loss or helping fighters get ready for a fight. Sergio also has experience training secret service agents and law enforcement. He is a senior at George Mason University and hopes to pursue a professional fight career after he graduates this summer.

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World



A Marine patrols a bazaar in Afghanistan's Sangin district, which remains volatile.

Doubts Emerge Over Afghan Pact

Fighting continues in key region despite tribe's peace pledge

Sangin, Afghanistan

U.S. Marines battling the Taliban in this insurgent stronghold in southern Afghanistan are increasingly dubious about prospects for a high-profile peace deal struck two months ago between the government and the area's largest tribe.

The pact is vital to coalition efforts to win control of Helmand

36

The number of NATO troops killed in Afghanistan in February. So far, 68 coalition troops have died this year.

province's Sangin district, one of the country's biggest drug hubs that fund the insurgents and a gateway for fighters to stream into Kandahar province, the Taliban's spiritual heartland.

High-level U.S. and Afghan officials insist the deal is working and could become a model for other groups looking to switch allegiance from the Taliban to the government — a key goal of the top NATO commander in Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus.

Elders of the Alikozai tribe agreed two months ago to prevent attacks on coalition forces in their

Meanwhile ...

On Tuesday, officials found the bodies of four of eight Afghan police officers who left their checkpoint Monday and never returned in a southern Afghanistan field, and NATO officials said three service members had been killed in the past two days. (AP)

section of Sangin in return for aid to build schools and clinics, and other needs.

But attacks have continued against Marines in the Upper Sangin Valley, said Lt. Col. Jason Morris, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment.

"While some are still optimistic, ... others, including me, are much more suspect about whether there actually is an agreement or if they are capable of upholding an agreement," Morris said.

Maj. Chris Bopp, the operations officer for the 2nd Marine Reconnaissance Battalion in the area, said it's hard to know how many Alikozai rank-and-file even know about the deal.

The Alikozai have also failed to put together a 15-man governing council that was part of the deal, a delay that Morris believes is driven by fear of Taliban retribution. (AP)

Cover Story

His Worst Enemy

Gingrich seems poised to face scrutiny about his past as he prepares for a White House bid

Iowa City, Iowa

The biggest obstacle to a Newt Gingrich's presidential bid might be Gingrich himself.

The twice-divorced former U.S. House speaker has admitted an affair with a former congressional aide, who is now his third wife. His career in Congress is remembered as much for his dramatic fall — the federal government shutdown, his censure and the loss of Republican seats in the House — as his rise. His polarizing style sometimes leaves would-be voters cold.

"I don't think it will be Newt's moral issues that will keep him from winning the presidency," said Tom Perdue, a Georgia-based GOP political strategist. "When he had a chance to govern, he proved that he couldn't."

\$14.5M

The amount of money Newt Gingrich's political groups raised in 2010, more than the next three potential GOP candidates combined.

Unlike many candidates, Gingrich won't have to struggle to make a name for himself. People already know Newt Gingrich. What remains to be seen is whether that hurts or helps him.

Gingrich, 67, is widely expected to take another step toward a run this week. He and his wife, Callista, have scheduled a meeting Thursday with Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, a key supporter. Gingrich's lawyer, Randy Evans, has said the former Georgia congressman will announce the formation of an exploratory committee in the coming days.

If Gingrich announces his candidacy Thursday, he would become the first Republican to get into the race, giving him extra time to answer questions about his past and then try to turn the focus toward issues.

Any doubts that his personal life would flare up were erased during a speech at the

Why Newt Can Win Over Republicans

WIDE EXPERIENCE

Supporters say Newt Gingrich has the intellectual heft and long track record to counter President Obama, who will be running with the powerful mantle of an incumbent president.

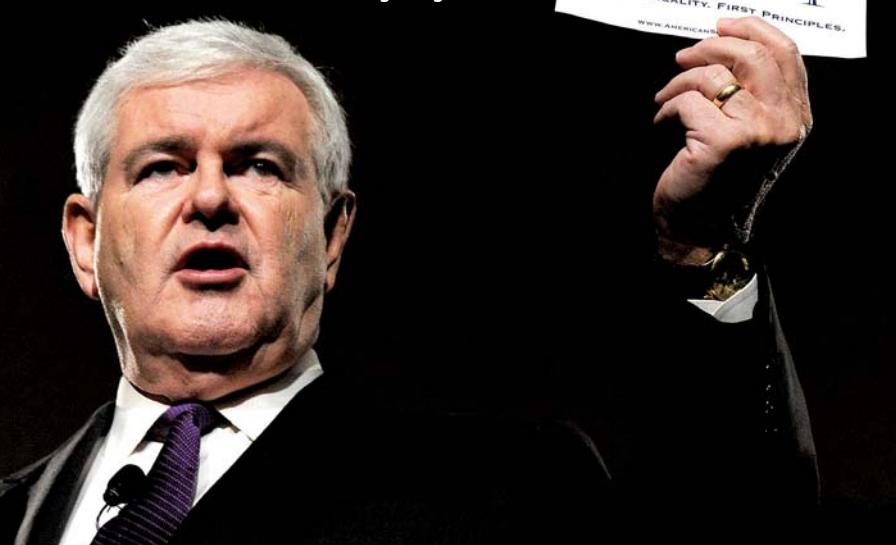
LOTS OF MONEY

Gingrich also has plenty of money. His tax-exempt conservative group, American Solutions for Winning the Future, is a fundraising juggernaut that raked in \$13.7 million in contributions last year, according to federal disclosure reports. It has allowed Gingrich to stay on the road, keeping his name and face in the news.

TEA PARTY CRED

Though Gingrich is a consummate insider, he can also play to the anti-incumbent crowd by stressing his roots as the leader of the Republican revolution in the 1990s, in some ways the precursor to the tea party movement.

Newt Gingrich has developed the slogan of "2+2 = 4" to encourage debate on the basic math of government spending and debt, which he has accused the Obama administration of forgetting.



OTHER POTENTIAL 2012 CONTENDERS



MIKE HUCKABEE

The runner-up in the 2008 GOP primary still appeals to conservatives.

Status: Possible



TIM PAWLENTY

The former Minnesota governor has made strong overtures recently to secure tea party support.

Status: Likely



SARAH PALIN

The tea party mainstay is reportedly testing the waters for a White House run.

Status: Possible



MITT ROMNEY

The former Massachusetts governor never fully drifted off the GOP's radar after 2008.

Status: Likely



CHRIS CHRISTIE

The New Jersey governor is earning a rep for slashing budgets, culling GOP favor. **Status:** Christie says he won't run



MICHELE BACHMANN

Like Palin, the Minnesota congresswoman is a tea party darling.

Status: Possible

"The problem for Newt may be that some voters know him too well. I think people can get past it, but it's not going to happen overnight."

— ED FAILOR JR. OF IOWANS FOR TAX REFORM.

University of Pennsylvania last week where a student confronted him about the affair.

"I've had a life which, on occasion, has had problems," Gingrich replied. "The American people will have to decide whether that's their primary concern. If the primary concern of the American people is my past, my candidacy would be irrelevant. If the primary concern of the American people is the future ... that's a debate I'll be happy to have with your candidate or any other candidate if I decide to run."

But with the economy improving slowly and the Middle East in turmoil, voters might be more willing than they otherwise would be to overlook his personal issues.

"I care about jobs, not who somebody slept with when," said Lee Young, a 67-year-old retired farmer eating lunch at the Good Earth diner in Muscatine, Iowa.

Gingrich will face a key test with social conservatives when he returns to Iowa for a ninth time since May 2010 on Monday to address the state's Faith and Freedom Coalition. Ralph Reed, the former head of the Christian Coalition, said Gingrich could win his "fair share" of religious voters.

"People can be very forgiving and believe in redemption. ... Newt needs to be authentic," Reed said. SHANNON MCCAFFREY (AP)



Angels to Step Up Patrols

Citizens group rededicates itself to protecting Metro riders from random attacks

The Washington D.C. Guardian Angels plan to patrol Metro's trains and buses with more frequency in the wake of reports of teen fights and attacks on some portions of the transit network.

The group announced in January that it would increase patrols. The latest decision comes after reports of an attack at the Suitland station on the Green Line on Friday. The news of the fight was publicized Tuesday morning on Nbcwashington.com.

The NBC report said 41-year-old Robert Joy was waiting for his niece at the Suitland station when he saw a group of youths beat-

Here We Go, Again

More escalator problems are being reported at Metro stations in Washington. On Monday morning, a Dupont Circle station escalator jolted to a halt, causing riders to fall. Later on Monday evening, firefighters were called to the same station at Dupont Circle for reports of smoke coming from an escalator. (AP)

ing another youth. Joy said he was attacked by the group when he tried to call 911.

John Ayala, East Coast director of the Guardian Angels, said that both uniformed and nonuniformed members will be on Metro's trains and buses. Ayala said they would intervene if they see an attack — and detain people for the police.

"The attacks are out of control," he said. "It's time for the community to do their part to make the Metro safe for everyone." The group wants to recruit young people 15 and older to assist their efforts — and earn community service hours, he added.

Ayala said the Guardian Angels typically deploy three to four people on a single bus and six to eight on a train.

A recent report from Metro said that serious crime has hit a five-year high on the sprawling transit network, with an increase in thefts of electronic devices leading the way.

Videos on YouTube and blogs have increasingly appeared on the Web in recent months, drawing more attention to the issue of fights in the Metro system.

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

METRO PULSE

The \$19 cab fare cap is going away. Any other changes you'd make to the taxi fare structure in town?



"I don't like the meters. I think sometimes the drivers go slower or take the long way around to run the meter up."

Charles Smith, UNION STATION

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Local



Children enjoy a spring day under the cherry blossoms near the Jefferson Memorial in 2008. This year's festival begins March 26.

Free to Look, \$5 for Fair

D.C. Cherry Blossom cultural festival goes back to admission fee

Washington

Views of Washington's famous cherry blossoms are still free. But the popular Japanese culture street fair that culminates the two-week-National Cherry Blossom Festival no longer is.

For the first time in 15 years, the Sakura Matsuri festival along Pennsylvania Avenue NW will take place April 9 behind a 6-foot-high fence and require visitors to pay a \$5 admission fee, organizers said Tuesday.

The fee will help cover an estimated \$300,000 in costs to produce the event, which has drawn about 150,000 people in each of the past several years, said John R. Malott,

president of the Japan-America Society, which stages the street fair. In all, about 4,000 staff, volunteers, government officials and performers are part of the staging process, he added.

"Hopefully, an admission fee will reduce the size of the crowd, and people will have a better time."

— JOHN MALLOT, PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY.

"The number one complaint we get is that there are so many people, it's become so crowded that people can't enjoy it," Malott said. "Hopefully, an admission fee will reduce the size of the crowd, and people will have a better time."

The fence will run along Penn-

sylvania Avenue between 9th and 14th streets, Malott said. The fair will no longer also run north-south along 12th Street, which it traditionally did. There will be five entrance gates, and customers may purchase tickets at the door, but Malott encouraged event-goers to buy tickets ahead of time at the event's website.

This year, the event will feature appearances by Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi and Japan's only NASCAR driver, Akinori Ogata. Maki Kaji, the "father of sudoku," who appeared in 2009, will make a return visit. Several performers, including Uzuhi, a Japanese Pop Punk band, will also be on hand.

"Knock on wood, the weather will be good and the net income from that will allow us to, in the future, to bring more performers from Japan," Malott said. DAVID NAKAMURA (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, March 1

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	2-7-4
Evening Lucky Numbers (Mon.)	4-5-1
Mid-day DC 4	9-9-6-2
Evening DC 4 (Mon.)	6-1-5-1
Mid-day D.C. Five	4-2-7-1-4
Evening D.C. Five (Mon.)	1-7-1-8

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	3-2-7
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	4-1-6
Mid-day Pick 4	8-3-3-1
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	3-8-2-3
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	4-10-16-21-30
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	11-14-23-26-32

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location.

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	2-0-5
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	9-0-0
Mid-day Pick 4	4-4-2-6
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	2-5-0-8
Match 5 (Mon.)	1-3-13-20-26 (10)

In Brief

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Gay Marriage Bill Faces Trouble in Md. House

A proposal to legalize same-sex marriage is in trouble in the House Judiciary Committee. Delegate Jill Carter, D-Baltimore, said Tuesday she was not ready to vote in favor of the bill she is co-sponsoring because she has not won a guarantee that \$15 million would be restored to Baltimore City schools. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Gray: D.C. Budget Deficit Less Dire Than Expected



Rosier revenue estimates for the upcoming fiscal year mean the District of Columbia's budget gap won't be as large as some had feared. D.C. officials

..... announced Tuesday that the city can expect to bring in an additional \$105 million in fiscal 2012. As a result, Mayor Vincent Gray's office says the city's structural budget deficit is now estimated at \$322 million. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Pepsi Gives Downtown D.C. 350 Recycling Bins

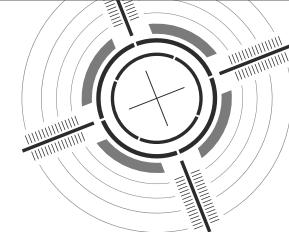
Washington will soon have more recycling options, thanks to a partnership between city officials and PepsiCo. More than 350 recycling bins will be placed downtown under the new initiative announced Tuesday. The bins should collect more than 1 million pounds of recyclable material a year. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Planting Effort Pushed To Restore Chesapeake

Homeowners in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia are being encouraged to plant more plants this spring to help Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. The effort announced Tuesday by the Chesapeake Bay Program aims to increase planting as a way to decrease storm-water runoff and erosion, both of which harm bay water quality. (AP)

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Sports

Commentary

There is no more room for excuses, promises or "wait till next year" platitudes now. The Washington Capitals are set, for better or worse, entering the Stanley Cup playoffs.

General Manager George McPhee filled the two spots he wanted to fill at Monday's NHL trade deadline, acquiring center Jason Arnott and defenseman Dennis Wideman.

By Tracee Hamilton

Now McPhee can start planning for the draft, because his work on this team is essentially done. Now it's all on Bruce Boudreau to see whether he can get the new ingredients to gel with the current roster in the remaining 19 games, including Tuesday night's meeting with the New York Islanders at Verizon Center, which ended after Express' deadline.

And now ... everyone waits. Until the first round of the playoffs commences in mid-April, we're not going to know whether this entire season — this giant experiment of turning an offensive juggernaut into a defensive-minded, playoff-style hockey team in just 12 months — was a success.

There are two ways this post-season can go for Washington. The first — the one for which fans are nervously hoping — is that the switch to a more defensive style of play, while sometimes painful in the regular season, will help the Capitals shake the can't-win-in-the-playoffs monkey off their backs.

The second way it can go: badly.

"Badly" means the Caps once again falter. "Badly" probably means saying goodbye to Boudreau. Hockey coaches are not known for their longevity, and it's possible Boudreau is not the guy to get them all the way to



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION



Missing Green

Coach Bruce Boudreau will have to battle one huge problem down the stretch: injuries to Eric Fehr and Mike Green, left. Fehr, battling a shoulder injury, was on the ice at Monday's practice, which is a positive sign. Green's injury is more worrisome. No one who saw him whacked in the head by a puck against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Super Bowl Sunday thought he would be back as soon as he was. He was out because of "concussion symptoms," and last Friday, in just his second start since that incident, he was hit again, this time by Derek Stepan of the Rangers, and now the Caps are saying he'll be out "a couple of weeks." (TWP)



Ready for Their Next Move: The NBA on Tuesday granted the Sacramento Kings an extension to file an application for relocation next season, setting up a fight between California cities for the franchise. The Kings, already engaged in talks about moving south to Anaheim, can discuss their options at the NBA Board of Governors meetings April 14-15. The team has until April 18 to decide whether it plans to relocate for next season. (AP)

Until the first round of the playoffs commences, we're not going to know whether this entire season ... was a success.

the end of the line.

"Badly" could mean saying goodbye to McPhee, although that is considerably less likely. Last year at the trade deadline, McPhee addressed team needs — albeit amid less urgency, because the Capitals were leading the league in points at the time — and acquired Eric Belanger, Joe Corvo, Milan Jurcina and Scott Walker. To paraphrase Bruce Springsteen, he's still here, they're all gone. If Arnott and Wideman prove adequate, McPhee is probably safe.

Owner Ted Leonsis gave both McPhee and Boudreau money and room to work, but even he has a limited supply of patience. He might make some allowances for injuries, but the Penguins have managed to play well without Crosby and Evgeni Malkin. Every team is banged up, especially this late in the season.

So, the bottom line: These are your Washington Capitals. The theories and experiments and tweaking are nearly over. In six weeks, the postseason begins. And then we'll know. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

In Brief



GETTY IMAGES
Kendrick Perkins received a four-year, \$36 million extension from the Thunder.

PRO BASKETBALL

Perkins Inks Extension

Before even playing a game with the Oklahoma City Thunder, center Kendrick Perkins signed an extension Tuesday to stay with his new team for a while. Perkins, who is due to make about \$36 million in Oklahoma City through the 2014-15 season, joined the Thunder five days ago in a trade with Boston. (AP)

THE REDSKINS

Dockery, Carter Released

The Redskins released veteran guard Derrick Dockery, who became a high-priced backup last season. Tuesday's move was no surprise. The 30-year-old lineman was due a salary of \$3.8 million in 2011. The team also cut ties with defensive end Andre Carter. (AP)

PRO BASEBALL

Bonds' Ex-Trainer Gets Jail Time for Contempt

A federal judge has ordered Barry Bonds' former trainer, Greg Anderson, jailed later this month for contempt unless he changes his mind about testifying against the slugger. Bonds pleaded not guilty to revised perjury charges on Tuesday before Anderson was called into court. (AP)

SOCCER

Owl Kicked in Game Dies

The mascot owl that was kicked by a soccer player is dead, with the apologetic perpetrator ordered to pay the bird's medical bills and do volunteer work at a zoo. The owl, a good-luck charm for the Colombian team Atletico Junior, was kicked by an opposing player during a game Sunday in Barranquilla. (AP)

NFL Sides Are Feeling A 'Sense Of Urgency'

Pro Football

The New York Giants' John Mara joined the NFL group negotiating with the players' union Tuesday, the first team owner to participate since a federal mediator began overseeing the talks.

Atlanta Falcons president Rich McKay, chairman of the league's competition committee, and Redskins General Manager Bruce Allen

also were among those joining NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell when mediation resumed Tuesday at 1 p.m., 59 hours before the current collective bargaining agreement was due to expire. "I don't think you could have a greater sense of urgency," said Jeff Pash, the league's lead labor negotiator.

There was no telling, of course, whether the sides would fare any better Tuesday than they did during more than 40 hours of meetings spread across seven consecutive days of mediation that wrapped up last week. When that round ended Thursday, mediator George Cohen said the league and the NFL Players Association still had "very strong differences" on the "all-important core issues."

HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)



Bryce Harper saw his first action of the spring in the field on Tuesday and nearly threw out a New York Mets runner at home plate with a strong toss from right field.

Nats' Harper Hits a Milestone

Teen goes opposite field for first single off big-league pitcher

The Nationals

A day after laughing off a pair of strikeouts in his spring training debut, Bryce Harper had something else to smile about — his first hit.

The No. 1 overall pick in last year's amateur draft went 1 for 2 Tuesday, lining an opposite-field single to left in the fifth inning off Pedro Beato as the Washington Nationals defeated the New York Mets 5-3.

"It was a good pitch to drive,"

Harper said. "I felt really good out there today."

Harper, expected to start the season at Class A Hagerstown, has been the Nationals' biggest draw this spring training. He struck out twice in his debut Monday against the Mets in Port St. Lucie, Fla., but didn't let that bother him.

"I went home, and I started laughing about it," he said.

The 18-year-old also got a chance to look at some video comparing his swing now to when he played in the Arizona Fall League. One of the adjustments he made was to keep his hands closer to his body and look to drive the ball to the opposite field.

"It's very impressive to be able



Nats top pick Bryce Harper makes a hard slide into second base on Tuesday. (AP)

to line the ball like that," manager Jim Riggleman said. "That was just a great stroke right there."

Harper entered in the fifth inning as a pinch hitter for Jayson Werth, making his spring debut as a Nation. The teenager skinned his left knee while making a hard slide, trying — but failing — to break up a double-play ball hit by Zimmerman. His second at-bat came in the seventh inning, when he reached on a fielder's choice as Corey Brown was out at home on a weak chopper to the mound.

Harper got to play four innings in right field after DH-ing Monday. He nearly threw out a running at home plate from deep right field. (AP)

TV Lineup

WIZARDS (7 P.M., CSN) The Wizards host the Golden State Warriors.

TERPS HOOPS (7 P.M., ESPNU) With its Big Dance hopes in peril, Maryland visits Miami.

PRO HOCKEY (7 P.M., VERSUS)

The Pittsburgh Penguins visit the Toronto Maple Leafs.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M., ESPN AND ESPN2; 9 P.M., ESPN

AND ESPN2; 11 P.M., ESPN2) North Carolina tips off against Florida State, and West Virginia plays Connecticut; Duke hosts Clemson, and Kansas takes on Texas A&M; and New Mexico State and Utah State duke it out.

Another Day, Another Buyout for Rebuilding Wiz

The Wizards

Al Thornton has reached a buyout agreement with the Washington Wizards.

Team President Ernie Grunfeld announced the move Tuesday, saying the recent additions of Rashard Lewis and Mo Evans com-

bined with Josh Howard's return from injury had created a logjam at small forward that made Thornton expendable.

Thornton was acquired a year ago from the Los Angeles Clippers. He started 23 games this season and was averaging 8.0 points, but he had been used sparingly over the

past month, in part because of a dislocated right middle finger.

Thornton is the second player in two days to reach a buyout deal with the Wizards. Mike Bibby bought out his contract on Monday.

Bibby is expected to sign with the Miami Heat Wednesday. (AP)

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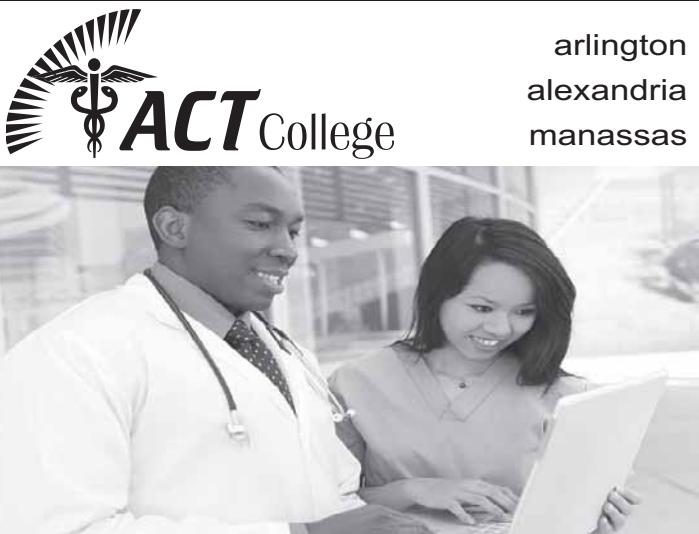
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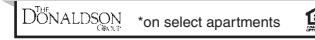
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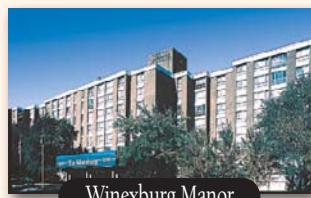
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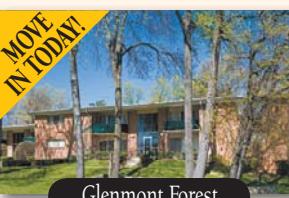
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Geek Philosophy



Tablet Battles

I'm not generally an Apple fan.

While its software is great, its hardware is overpriced and often sacrifices function for form. But even I will gladly admit Apple pretty much got it all right with the iPad, which is why all eyes will be watching the company's expected announcement today of the next generation of that tablet computer.

The fact that Steve Jobs & co. are already on to phase two won't make things any easier for iPad wannabe devices. Most notable among those tablets is the Motorola Xoom, which uses an Android operating system created especially for tablets (rather than for smartphones) called Honeycomb. The Xoom runs smoothly indeed, and I prefer its rubberized back panel to the iPad's aluminum (it's hard enough to keep my fingerprints off the touchscreens.)

I can't figure out why the Xoom's price is so ridiculous, though. It costs \$800 up front, or \$600 with a two-year wireless service contract. Perhaps the expense is due to the built-in cameras on the front and back, features that the original iPad lacks but which are rumored to be in the iPad2. No matter how hard the other tablet-makers try, Apple already has a 15 million-sold head start.



Comments? Give Kenneth your feedback: expressnightout.com/geek



By
Kenneth
Terrell



I first walked into the audition for NFL cheerleading, there were hundreds of girls there, most of whom I'm sure were better dancers than me. I think I made the cut because I persevered."

As a scientist, she's stared down far scarier foes, such as starvation and menacing bacterial infections. Tarantulas and leeches plagued her en route to discovering the world's smallest lemur in Madagascar in 2003. And in 2009, she survived a terrifying plane crash while studying gorillas in Congo.

"There's unity ... in wearing these pink boots and not shying away from the fact that I'm a woman."

Three Cheers For Primates!

MIREYA MAYOR

Former cheerleader Mireya Mayor brings a feminine approach to studying species

Author

Pink boots were made for tromping — that's what Mireya Mayor believes. The NFL cheerleader-turned-primateologist has sported the stand-out

kicks on her expeditions for years, while studying lemurs, wildebeests and other exotic species. Call her the Elle Woods of exploration, if you like. Mayor's overprotective mom raised her as a "girlie girl," unaware of the snails, worms

and other critters her only daughter was hiding under the bed. In college, Mayor joined the Miami Dolphins cheerleading squad but quit after "Gorillas in the Mist" inspired her to study primates.

The extreme career makeover was inevitable to Mayor, who believes the urge for adventure is in her blood. "You're either born an explorer or you're not," Mayor says. Her book,

Boots

Fashion-Forward Field Footwear



Mireya Mayor says she owns five pairs of pink hiking boots made by Asolo and a pair of neon pink Wellies, left, for trekking through swamps. Break out your own rose-hued kicks for Mayor's multimedia presentation about her explorations at National Geographic on Thursday night — the institution says people wearing pink boots to the talk will receive a special prize. K.A.



"Pink Boots and a Machete" (\$26, National Geographic), chronicles her unconventional path to earning a Ph.D. in anthropology and becoming a National Geographic correspondent and TV host.

Waving pom-poms on the football field was surprisingly appropriate prep for work "in the field." "Both take a lot of determination and hard work," Mayor says. "When

"That's about as close to death as I want to come," Mayor says. "But it's funny — in those moments, what I think of is, 'This is why no one will insure me.'" The mother of two girls (who's expecting twins, also girls) most recently hosted "Wild Nights" on the Nat Geo Wild! channel, for which she examined wildlife in urban environments.

But she won't give up adrenaline rushes in remote locales anytime soon. "I made a decision when I had my first daughter that I was going to continue being who I was, and I am an explorer," Mayor says. "I don't think I would be doing my family or my children any favors by trying to be somebody that I'm not."

The boots are here to stay, too. "There's unity ... in wearing these pink boots and not shying away from the fact that I'm a woman and feminine," Mayor says. "It's a sign of strength." KATIE ABERBACH (EXPRESS)

• *National Geographic*, 1600 M St. NW; Thu., 7:30 p.m., \$18; 202-857-7700; Events.nationalgeographic.com. (Farragut West)

Will It Ever End?

Charlie Sheen's Crazy Talk Express shows no signs of stopping 31



Comments? Give Kenneth your feedback: expressnightout.com/geek

Compiled by Fiona Zublin. For more upcoming events, follow the Top Stops blog at expressnightout.com/topstops.

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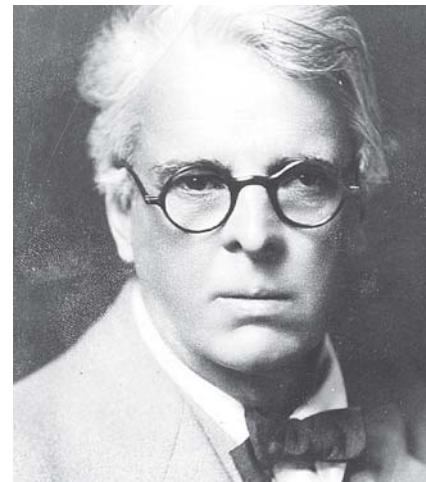


1 Pogo-Stick It To the Man

Mash-ups remind us of wild dance music (a la Girl Talk), but Pogo's electronica pieces — made from film and television sound rather than top 40 hits — are different. They're dreamy and odd, and not so much get-down-to-the-dance-floor tunes as realize-your-deepest-anxieties music. **Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; 8:30 p.m., \$12; 202-667-4490. (U St.-Cardozo)**

2 A Need-to-Know Basis

The Spy Museum's workshop on counterfeiting and forgery does have a disclaimer saying that it doesn't want you to try to use your newfound knowledge to break any laws. But remember: Just because it's a hands-on talk about forgery techniques, we are NOT encouraging you to make money off what you learn. Seriously, stay out of jail. **International Spy Museum, 800 F St. NW; 6:30 p.m., \$28; 202-393-7798. (Gallery Place)**



3 (Living) Irish Writers

Sure, we pay a lot of attention to James Joyce, Oscar Wilde and William Butler Yeats, left — but Solas Nua wants to remind us about Ireland's living literary talent. Thus, the D.C. Irish Writers Festival, which features poets (Leanne O'Sullivan and Leontia Flynn), novelists (Sean O'Reilly and Julian Gough) and even a blogger (Emer Martin)! Check the website for the full schedule. **Various locations; March 3-7, free; Solasnua.org.**

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Best Bets

PBS
8:00

American Masters "Troubadors: Carole King/James Taylor & the Rise of the Singer-Songwriter" is a 90-minute documentary that provides a firsthand account of how the historic collaboration between King and Taylor, right, 40 years ago became a focal point of a 1970s music movement at music club the Troubadour.

ABC
9:00

Modern Family Claire wears herself out trying to make peace between Alex and Haley, while Phil sneaks off for a day at the spa. Cameron decides to write a book celebrating Lily's adoption, but he uncovers some disturbing artifacts in the process.

FOX
9:30TLC
10:00

Hoarding: Buried Alive Jahn is such an extreme hoarder that she has filled two houses virtually from floor to ceiling, forcing her to climb over mountains of clutter just to get from one room to the next. She even has to go to a health club to use the bathroom. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)



DAVID GROGAN

CNBC
9:00

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A cash crop, a cultural force and an American export well before the nation was founded, tobacco continues to divide, addict and delight people all over the world. "Cigarette Wars" examines the centuries-long paradox. Some in government are trying to tax its use out of existence; others help support its export. "Wars" examines a thriving black market in smuggled smokes that results in billions of dollars of lost tax revenues.

KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

Reunions



'Do I Know You?'

Doris Roberts, above, who played Patricia Heaton's mother-in-law/nemesis in "Everybody Loves Raymond," returns to "The Middle" (8 p.m., ABC), as Ms. Rinsky, Brick's third-grade teacher, who asks Frankie (Heaton) and Mike to attend a math class after Frankie questions her teaching skills. Meanwhile, Sue and Axl consider helping their aunt (guest star Jeanette Miller) find a time capsule. (TM)

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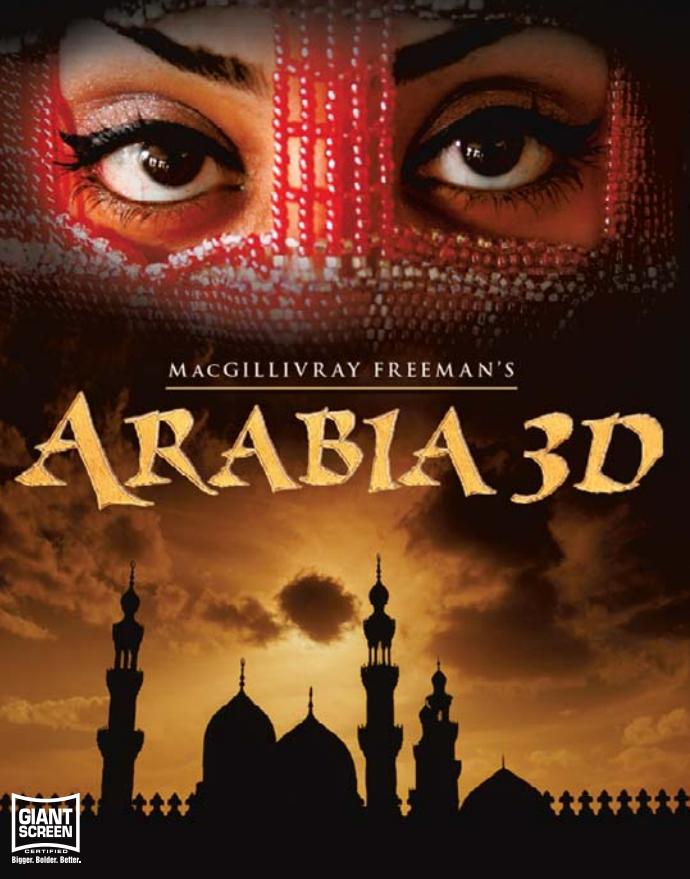
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lookout travel

Paradise, Cheap

Find myriad activities in Hawaii that are free or inexpensive

Excursions

While planning a weeklong family trip to Hawaii as an escape from not-quite-spring weather, I kept getting suggestions from friends, websites and even my kids for all kinds of "must-see" activities.

Helicopter tours! Dolphin encounters! Luau! Bike rides! Then I checked out the prices for all these marvels. Helicopter tour, \$200. Dolphin encounter, \$100. Luau, \$100. Bike ride, \$100.

Now multiply each fee by four, for me, my spouse and two kids. I'd just added \$2,000 to the budget for our trip. But if we didn't do any of these things, would we really feel we'd missed out?

I'm happy to report we skipped 'em all with no regrets. We hiked through rain forests, walked across a volcano floor and stargazed from the world's tallest mountain. We visited Pearl Harbor, climbed Diamond Head, sunbathed on Waikiki and body-surfed at Hanalei Bay. We saw petroglyphs on a remote seaside trail, and watched Hawaiian dancers in a park at sunset. We even stopped by the apartment building where President Obama was raised (1617 S. Beretania St., Honolulu),



FILE/THE WASHINGTON POST

The spectacular views come free of charge at the Kalalau Lookout in Kauai, Hawaii.

Aloha, Hawaii

Collect (practically free) memories from an adventure in Hawaii.

- For less than \$10, you can rent snorkel gear at Kahulu Beach Park in Kona and see coral and fish.
- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Nps.gov/havo (car entry fee, \$10) offers astonishing landscapes.
- No visit to Oahu is complete without visiting its two most famous landmarks, Diamond Head and Pearl Harbor. Arrive first thing to beat the crowds; parking is \$5 (pedestrians, \$1 per person), <http://bit.ly/eoB6kg>.

because I wanted my kids to see that you don't have to grow up in a mansion to be president.

The cost for these activities,

aside from parking or car entry fees: zero.

Which is not to say that a vacation to Hawaii can be done on a dime. We pounced on a \$550 round-trip airfare, but even that meant \$2,200 for a family of four. My husband covered six nights' lodging for free by saving hotel credit card points for more than a year, but the one hotel night we paid for ran \$350.

We stuffed ourselves at free hotel breakfasts and at places such as Me's BBQ (151 Uluniu St. in Waikiki on Oahu), where the plate lunch fills you up for less than \$10. The Hawaiian ABC chain became our second home, offering basics such as sunscreen and postcards as well as fruit, sushi and sandwiches. **BETH J. HARPAZ (AP)**

Real Deals

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Spend three nights in Zurich, two in Lucerne and two in Interlaken. Round-trip airfare to Zurich on Air Canada or Swiss International Air Lines; three nights in Zurich (two at the Hilton Zurich Airport hotel and one at the Best Western Hotel Montana); two nights in Lucerne at the NH Luzern; two nights in Interlaken at the Hotel Merkur; breakfast daily; intercity train transfers (Zurich to Lucerne, Lucerne to Interlaken, Interlaken to Zurich) on the Swiss railroad; fuel surcharges; and all taxes and fees.

WHEN: March 1 through May 31

DETAILS: Includes all taxes and fees. Based on double occupancy; the single supplement is \$513. Prices based on April 22 departure date; rates for other dates may fluctuate slightly and are based on availability.

Tiny Top Chefs

Parents used to do their best to keep kids out of the kitchen, but they're having a hard time with that these days. "Kids tune in to food shows, they watch 'Julie & Julia,' and their families are always cooking, so they want to try it themselves," says Lisa Atwood, author of "The Cookbook for Kids: Great Recipes for Kids Who Love to Cook" (\$20, Weldon Owen). But to keep the spaghetti sauce stains (and family fights) to a minimum, many moms and dads are enrolling pint-sized, would-be Top Chefs in culinary classes in the area. Courses aimed at the 2 1/2-and-up set teach cucina skills both basic (measuring, mixing, etc.) and advanced. "The greatest thing about kids in the kitchen? It gives them a sense of independence," Atwood says. "It's the first place where they begin to take control of their lives." Here are a few local classes to get them started. Bobby Flay, watch your back. **NEVIN MARTELL**

Paula's Parisian Pastries

"Glee" and "Star Wars" theme birthday parties are so 2010. The latest trend: Throw little Madison or Max a "Cupcake Wars" or "Iron Chef" bash. Attendees ages 3 and up face off in a friendly competition as they learn their way around the kitchen. "There'll be some mixing, schmearing and assembly," says chef Paula Shoyer. "Kids love to squish and create." Shoyer can tailor parties to kids' interests, be that whipping

Want to go? Party classes of six to 12 students can be scheduled at Paula Shoyer's home kitchen, or she can come to you if your kitchen can accommodate the group. Prices vary by menu and class size. To schedule an event, e-mail Pshoyer@hotmail.com or visit Paulaspasstry.com.

up lasagna, twisting pretzels or decorating cakes. "If you're a little girl and want five shades of pink icing to work with, I can do that," she says.

PHOTO BY MARGIE ELVIE/EXPRESS



At a recent class at Sterling's Cookology, kids sauté apples in cinnamon and sugar as part of a class on whipping up breakfast.



Just Cakes

"Kids classes are so much more fun to teach, because children aren't afraid to be themselves and act like goofballs," says Just Cakes' "chef-structor," Lauren Jones. "In comparison, grown-ups are so shy and uptight." She teaches not-quite-tall-enough-for-the-kitchen-counter cooks baking basics, including how to turn out a two-layer celebration cake from scratch. This includes instructions on decorative icing, so kids can create with borders, flowers and messages. The kids even take a bit of their good time home. "It always makes the parents happy to get a slice," says Jones. "Though sometimes I get e-mails saying that the kids like it so much they won't share."



Want to go? Upcoming kids' courses include a finger-foods DIY session Saturday at 2 p.m. (\$25) and a cake-baking lesson March 11 at 11 a.m. (\$25). Cookology, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Sterling, Va., 703-433-1909, Cookologyonline.com.

Cookology

Even if a child is too young to be able to use a convection oven — or even pronounce "convection oven" — he or she can start his or her gastronomic schooling at Cookology's Mommy & Me program. At the Time for a Tea Party class, kids ages 3 to 6 are introduced to the basics of baking scones, including rolling dough, cutting out and decorating. This elementary introduction to cheffing has the power to inspire epiphanies. "It's amazing to see children try new things, learn new skills and

work with new ingredients," says instructor Katie Reineberg, who runs Cookology's kids' programs. "They walk away loving something they hadn't known about an hour earlier," plus a bag of goodies they made themselves.

Want to go? A kids' cake decorating class takes place Saturday at 11 a.m., \$60. Just Cakes, 4849 Rugby Ave., Bethesda, Md.; 301-718-5111, Justcakes.com.

Mixed Media

Cupcake Cakes (By Lisa Turner Anderson, \$15, Gibbs Smith)

Isn't a cupcake just a baby cake? Then turning cupcakes back into unified desserts — a bear (shown), an M&M's-studded butterfly and, most brilliantly, a caterpillar formed of 11 round treats — amounts to a bizarre form of dessert incest. This cookbook, which kids seem destined to swoon over, contains info on creating sweets that make you look like the dad or mom with the most, even though all you're doing is globbing Duncan Hines frosting and Spree to cake-mix muffins. **Great for:** Creative party givers who prefer decorating to complex recipe deciphering. **Not for:** Diabetics or anyone else with a fear or loathing of sugar. While cute, these desserts get their color (and toddler-spazzing potential) from lots of icing, licorice and other junky ingredients. **JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)**



lookout online

Poll Center

Today's Question

SHOULD THE U.S. TAKE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST GADHAFI'S FORCES IN LIBYA?

VOTE AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT A FOR YES OR B FOR NO TO 98999

Tuesday's Results

DO YOU THINK CHARLIE SHEEN WILL RETURN TO CBS' 'TWO AND A HALF MEN'?

84% **16%**

— NO — YES —

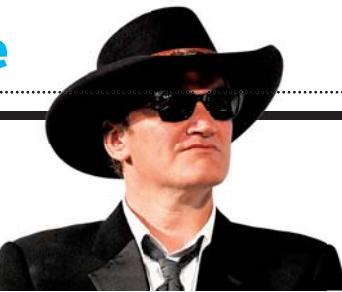
"He won't be given the chance. CBS has made it clear that dumping Chuck Lorre just to please Sheen isn't an option."

COMMENTER RICK NORTON

"Whatever else Sheen does, I wish him good health, which can only happen with successful liberation from all addictive substances to which he's been subjecting his body. This dude's got some hardcore recovery to do, if he wants to be well enough to want to be alive."

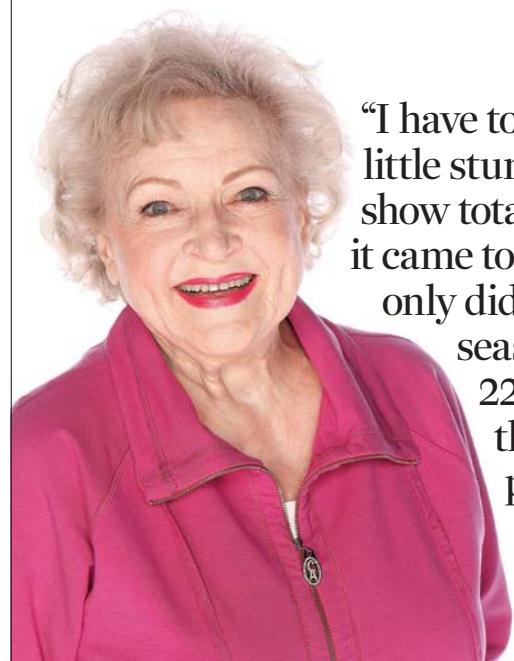
COMMENTER LOWSPARK

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM



"Quentin [Tarantino] famously made an alternative history version of WWII where Jews kill Hitler, so I'd love to see his wish-fulfillment take on slavery."

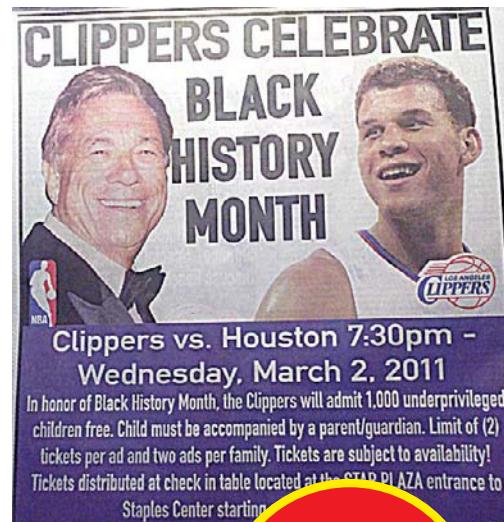
— **FILMDRUNK.UPROXX.COM** IS UNSURE ABOUT RUMORS THAT PRODUCTION MIGHT BE GOING FORWARD ON A "SLAVERY WESTERN" MOVIE THAT TARANTINO HAS HINTED AT WANTING TO MAKE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR.



"I have to say I am a little stunned, because this show totally passed me by when it came to renewal prospects. Not only did it manage a second season; it's now scored a full 22-episode order for the third. TV Land must be pretty happy with Betty White and company."

— **SNARKERATI.COM** REACTS TO NEWS THAT "HOT IN CLEVELAND" — STARRING WHITE, VALERIE BERTINELLI, JANE LEEVES AND WENDIE MALICK — WAS RENEWED.

Blog Log



"In honor of Black History Month, Donald Sterling will admit 1,000 'underprivileged' kids and their parents [for] free for a Clippers-Rockets game on Wednesday. It is unclear exactly how the Clippers will determine a child's 'privilege' status, but we have one guess."

— **DEADSPIN.COM** HIGHLIGHTS THAT THE NBA TEAM'S PROMOTION IS, IN FACT, OCCURRING IN MARCH. FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

"The Lamborghini Aventador LP700-4 has finally landed, and, as expected, it looks out of this world — as any Lambo should. ... Alas, unless you have a spare \$379,700 laying around, either start saving, or just keep dreaming."

— **MOTORAUTHORITY.COM/BLOG** IS IMPRESSED WITH THE ITALIAN AUTOMAKER'S LATEST CAR, RELEASED TUESDAY AT THE 2011 GENEVA MOTOR SHOW.



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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) It's a good day to look back and take stock of what you've done recently — not generally but specifically and in detail.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may have to do something you're not at all fond of doing to clear the way for something that provides more pleasure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may not be looking forward to alone time, but it can give the focused solitude you need to get a specific job done.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It's a good time to put plans into motion, but only if you have thought out all possible contingencies. Take no chances right now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Routine aches and pains may be no less irritating to you, but you shouldn't let them get in the way of doing what you have scheduled.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The stakes are likely to rise considerably, as you make one or two decisions that affect everyone who comes after you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You can make a difference to someone who is in financial difficulties at this time. Put your expertise to unselfish use, and see what happens.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Others are waiting to hear what you have to say, but you won't be prepared to say it until you have received all pertinent information.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Don't try to stall for time. Focus on getting things done as scheduled — whether you feel rushed or not.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may be wondering who has been trying to contact you recently. No names or numbers have been left, but the messages have been clear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) An unexpected obstacle arises and may require you to employ your most finely honed negotiation skills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Momentum is the key to success; once you get moving, keep moving at a steady pace and you can reach every one of your landmarks.

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 145-155, BEST SCORE 208



RACK 1



RACK 2



3rd Letter Triple

RACK 3



Double Word Score

RACK 4

Yesterday's Solution

I ₁	N ₁	S ₁	T ₁	A ₁	N ₁	T ₁	RACK 1 =	57
I ₁	M ₃	B ₃	I ₁	B ₃	E ₁		RACK 2 =	12
U ₁	R ₁	I ₁	N ₁	A ₁	R ₁	Y ₄	RACK 3 =	61
L ₁	O ₁	C ₃	K ₅	B ₃	O ₁	X ₈	RACK 4 =	116
							TOTAL	246

Scrabble Grams

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

MEDIUM

8	7		5		2	3	
	6				1	5	
4					2	5	9
5	8	7	1				
3	8						6
9	5				4	2	8

Yesterday's Solution

2	7	8	4	6	9	1	5	3
4	9	3	1	8	5	7	6	2
6	5	1	2	7	3	8	4	9
1	6	2	9	3	7	5	8	4
7	4	9	5	2	8	6	3	1
3	8	5	6	1	4	2	9	7
9	3	7	8	5	1	4	2	6
8	2	4	7	9	6	3	1	5
5	1	6	3	4	2	9	7	8

Need more Sudoku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

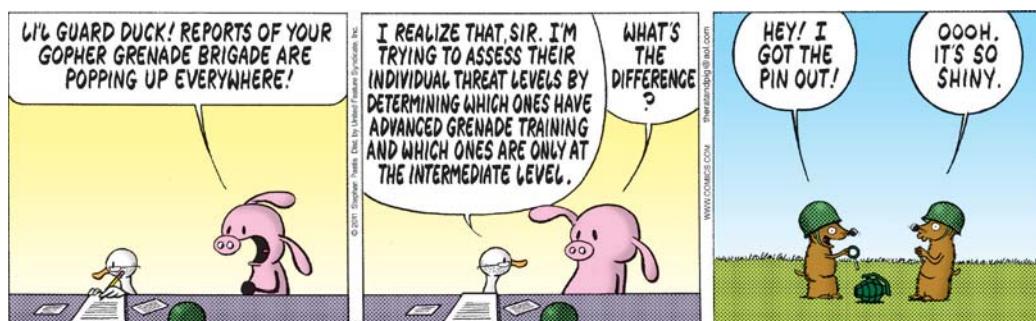
Comics

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POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast

59 | 30

Today: Breezy today with a full day of sunshine. Mainly clear tonight.

41 | 30

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and cooler tomorrow. Partly cloudy tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead



53 | 40 60 | 45 55 | 36

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 6:40 a.m.
Sunset today: 6:01 p.m.
Moonrise today: 5:17 a.m.
Moonset today: 4:16 p.m.

Almanac

Normal high: 50
Record high: 80
Normal low: 33
Record low: 13

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009



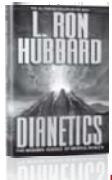
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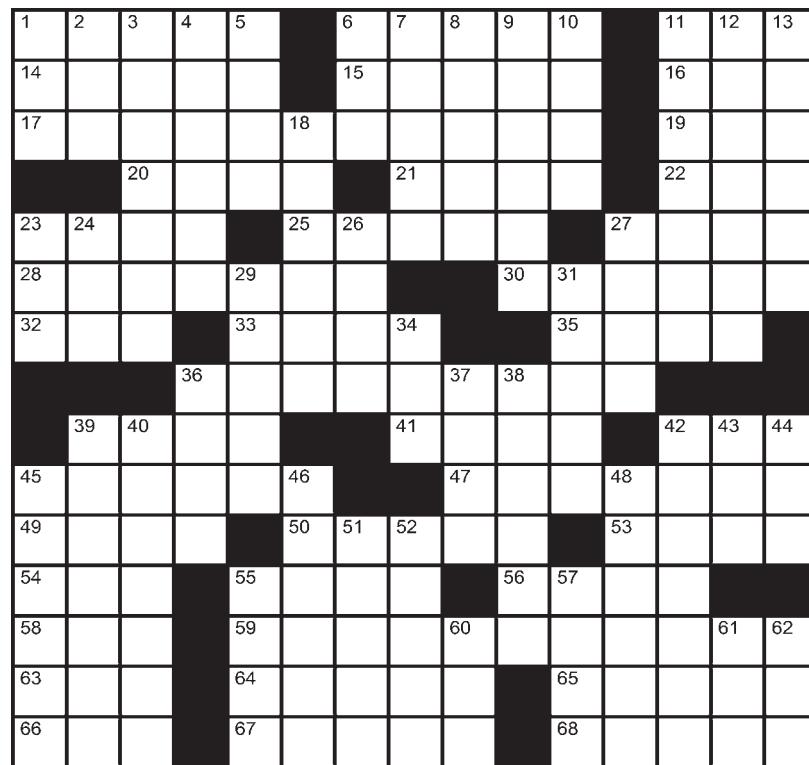
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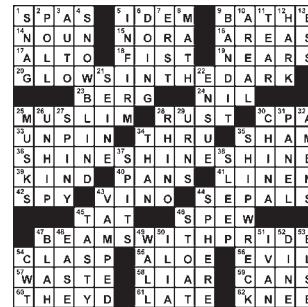
TWISTED!



EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

community?
3 Most breezy
4 Computer system made up of newsgroups
5 Paving block
6 Hearth residue
7 Bagel purveyors
8 Warning, in Spanish
9 Zodiac twins
10 Space-going chimp of 1961
11 Frequent flier
12 10,000 square meters
13 Brosnan role before Bond
18 Machinist's pin
23 ... a little tom-___ sang ...
27 "National Velvet"
author Bagnold
29 A second time
31 "Silly" birds
34 Sound of bacon frying
36 Small but loud songbird
37 Like a piper of folklore
38 Prohibit legally
39 Melonlike tropical fruits
40 Periodic table entry
42 Kind of driver or union
43 1,000,000,000 years
44 deco
45 Talk turkey?
46 Southern drawl, for one
48 Sculptor's tool
51 Last movement of a sonata
52 Rear-___ (road mishap)
55 African wading bird
57 Dracula portrayer Lugosi
60 Prefix with "moron"
61 "And now, without further ___"
62 Monogram for Mr. Hyde's creator

Yesterday's Solution



Today in History

1877 Republican Rutherford B. Hayes is declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden wins the popular vote.

1917 Puerto Ricans are granted U.S. citizenship as President Woodrow Wilson signs the Jones-Shafroth Act.

2006 The Senate votes to renew the USA Patriot Act.

express



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people lookout



SAD

In Other Words, She Got Thrown in the Drunk Tank

Christina Aguilera was arrested early Tuesday on suspicion of being drunk in public but will not be prosecuted. She was "extremely intoxicated" when a car driven by boyfriend Matthew Rutler was stopped. He was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. Aguilera was arrested because she appeared too drunk to care for herself and had no way to get home. (AP)



"Lately, I've been really studying Fred Astaire."

— JUSTIN BIEBER CITES HIS ARTISTIC INFLUENCES IN AN US MAGAZINE INTERVIEW. HE ALSO MENTIONED MICHAEL JACKSON. TUESDAY WAS BEIBER'S 17TH BIRTHDAY.



Who Are the 'Goddesses'?

Charlie Sheen's live-in "goddesses" are adult film star Bree Olson, above, and graphic designer Natalie Kenly. Both appeared on "Good Morning America" with him Tuesday. "They're an international sensation," he told "GMA." "These are the women that I love that have completed the three parts of my heart." "It seems crazy to everybody else, but for us, it works," Kenly said. (EXPRESS)



ENDLESS

Insert Sanity Here

On "Piers Morgan Tonight" Monday, Charlie Sheen revealed that Mel Gibson called him to offer support: "He was a stone-cold dude. I was really impressed." On the "Two and a Half Men" front, Sheen insists he hasn't given up rejoining the show. "Defeat is not an option," he told Howard Stern Tuesday. To the Associated Press, he said his media blitz won't stop until the sitcom's crew are paid for all eight canceled episodes. He also joined Twitter. @CharlieSheen has started tweeting. (EXPRESS)



"I am on a drug. It's called Charlie Sheen. It's not available, because if you try it, you will die. Your face will melt off, and your children will weep over your exploded body."

— CHARLIE SHEEN TOLD ABC'S "20/20" THAT HE'S SOBER, HE'S NOT AN ADDICT, AND THAT NO CONVENTIONAL REHABILITATION TREATMENT WOULD WORK ON HIM EVEN IF HE WERE.



Victims

Kindles Everywhere Cringe

Bristol Palin has signed with William Morrow to publish a book, "Not Afraid of Life," for a summer release. "Bristol gives readers an intimate behind-the-scenes look at her life for the first time," the publishing house said in a statement. (AP)



UNCLEAR

And What Dressing Would You Like on Your Word Salad?

Lindsay Lohan says she's doing well despite being accused of jewelry theft recently. "I feel great," she told "Extra" in an interview that aired Tuesday. "As long as I'm focusing on the one thing that I know I need to put forth in my life, which is, you know, my recovery and stuff, then I'm doing good, and that's most important for me." (EXPRESS)

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